

Def. Doc. # 448

ARTICLE FROM "THE JAPAN CHRONICLE"
AUGUST 19, 1931 (Page 5)

NAKAMURA MURDER CASE
CHINESE AUTHORITIES PROMISE A
PROMPT INVESTIGATION
JAPANESE PRESS COMMENT

A Mukden dispatch to the Asahi says that Mr. Hayashi, Consul-General at Mukden, accompanied by Mr. Morioka, a Consul, visited Mr. Tsang, head of the Liaoning Government, and opened negotiations in connection with the case in which Captain Nakamura and three others were murdered by Chinese troops.

At this interview, says the dispatch, the Japanese Consul-General narrated the facts of the case, after which he asked Mr. Tsang for speedy measures to be taken.

In reply, Mr. Tsang said that he had not received any report regarding the matter. If the incident was such as had been described, he was very sorry. He then promised to send a commission to the spot to make inquiries, and order the military authorities to complete all investigations within a week.

In view of the grave nature of the incident, says the message, the results of the Chinese investigation and the attitude to be adopted by the Chinese authorities are watched with considerable interest locally.

Commenting on the affairs, the Osaka Asahi expresses indignation and urges Mr. Hayashi, the Japanese Consul-General at Mukden, to take the matter up vigorously with the local Chinese authorities, so that it may be settled in a manner satisfactory to Japanese nation. Captain Nakamura Shintaro, who was in the interior of Manchuria on a tour of inspection, had been missing since the end of June, and inquiries disclosed, as has just been officially announced by the military authorities, his shocking end. During his inspection trip, the Captain was arrested by Chinese troops and then shot. He was actually armed with a passport and his nationality was recognisable at a glance. The gravity of the crime is heightened by the fact that his murderers were the Chinese troops whose duty it is to maintain peace in the locality and to protect the inhabitants from harm. In the face of these facts, it is obvious that the Chinese authorities cannot escape responsibility. The methods used in putting the Japanese officer to death were cruel to a degree. After subjecting him to all sorts of indignities, they murdered him and incinerated his body. PURL: <http://www.legal-tools.org/doc/a9c845/>

No matter what excuse the Chinese authorities may advance the Asahi proceeds, there was no warrant whatever, under the treaty existing between the two countries, for the Chinese authorities to have acted in the matter in this arbitrary manner. It is particularly regrettable that the Chinese committed such a horrible crime at a time when negotiations for the abolition of extraterritoriality are about to enter on an important stage. The present affair is much more serious than the Thoburn case. The Osaka journal declares that it must strongly condemn the Chinese outrages against a Japanese soldier in the name of the Japanese people.